



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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## **EVANSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY**

*MORE RESULTS FROM U.S. ATTORNEY'S VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Gerald Fuqua, 31, of Evansville, was sentenced to ten years in prison by United States District Chief Judge Richard L. Young following, his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute powder cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana.

A joint federal and local investigation of Fuqua and his paramour, Beth Ranes, culminated in two January 3, 2011 traffic stops in Evansville, during which police officers seized approximately 20 ounces of cocaine and \$6,000.00 cash from Fuqua, Ranes and one of Fuqua's drug customers.

Law enforcement officers later requested and received a search warrant for Fuqua and Ranes' 536 Caranza Court residence. During the search officers located an additional approximately 1.1 kilograms of powder cocaine, one ounce of crack cocaine and six pounds of marijuana. In addition, officers also seized a number of vehicles from the residence, as well as approximately \$44,000.00 cash seized from a safety deposit box kept by Fuqua and Ranes at a local bank.

The criminal Information filed in federal court naming Fuqua and Ranes as defendants alleged that Ranes used the purchase of their residence and deposits into the safety deposit box as a means with which to launder the proceeds of the couple's drug distribution business. Ranes is currently scheduled for a guilty plea hearing on July 28, 2011, before Judge Young.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Brookman, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young ordered the forfeiture of approximately \$55,100.00 cash, two firearms and a vehicle seized from Fuqua during the course of the investigation. Judge Young also imposed a period of four years supervised release upon Fuqua following release from prison. The case was the result of an investigation by the Evansville Vanderburgh County Joint Drug Task Force, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division.

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